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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Korea	REPORT NO.	[REDACTED]
SUBJECT	Actor Troupes in North Korea	DATE DISTR.	21 October 1953
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1. Between 30 April and 30 July 1953 a Chinese show troupe of about 70 actors and actresses, singers, and dancers performed in cities and large towns in North Korea as well as at front-line units. Their purpose was to help establish friendly relations between the Chinese and the North Korean people. They gave Korean and Chinese plays, folk songs, and dances, in addition to Korea, Chinese and Mongolian classical dances. The troupe performed in P'yongyang at the Moranpong Underground Theater from 30 May to 10 June 1953. The first performance was for high ranking government officials only. The other performances were open to the public. Admission was 120 North Korean won per person.
2. In June 1953 the following actors' troupes were performing at the Moranpong Underground Theater¹ in P'yongyang and in local cities and towns:
 - a. North Korean Army Troupe - 150 players on active duty; attached to the Cultural Department, North Korean Army General Headquarters.
 - b. Ministry of Internal Affairs Troupe - 100 players, all government employees; attached to the Cultural Bureau of the Ministry.
 - c. Ministry of Rail Transportation Troupe - 100 players, all government employees; attached to the Cultural Department of the Ministry.
 - d. National Artists' Troupe - 80 players, mainly actors and actresses who came from South Korea; attached to the Ministry of Culture and Propaganda.
 - e. Artists' Union Troupe, P'yongyang - 80 players; attached to the Korean-Russian Cultural Association.
 - f. Artists' Union Troupe, South P'yongan Province - 50 players; attached to the Province branch of the Korean-Russian Cultural Association.

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- g. Artists' Union Troupe, North P'yŏngan Province - 50 players; attached to the Province branch of the Korean-Russian Cultural Association.
 - h. Artists' Union Troupe, South Hamgyŏng Province - 50 players; attached to the Province branch of the Korean-Russian Cultural Association.
 - i. Artists' Union Troupe, North Hamgyŏng Province - 50 players; attached to the Province branch of the Korean-Russian Cultural Association.
 - j. Artists' Union Troupe, Kangwŏn Province - 50 players; attached to the Province branch of the Korean-Russian Cultural Association.
 - k. Circus Troupe - 30 players; attached to the Cultural Department of P'yŏngyang.
3. Each year in July a stage competition is held in North Korea to select a troupe to be sent to the International Olympic Games Meeting for Communist nations. On 2 July 1953 the contest was won by the North Korean Army Troupe from which 130 actors and actresses were sent to the international event scheduled to be held on 2 August 1953. They were accompanied by 131 persons including athletic champions, representatives of students and the Democratic Youth Association, poets and other artists.

- 25X1A 1. Comment. [REDACTED] reported that the Moranpong National Theater Construction and Radio P'yongyang were in an underground cave in a hill at Moranpong Peak (YD-3924), P'yongyang in February 1953.

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